United Nations ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 April 2015

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-third plenary session
Geneva, 15-17 June 2015
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2014

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Report of the 2015 February meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with the Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau (ECE/CES/2007/8), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its fifty-third plenary session. Referring to the Rules, the Bureau acts as a steering body of the Conference. The report includes decisions taken by the Bureau at its 17-18 February 2015 meeting on the work carried out under the auspices of the Conference.

GE.15-08581 (E)

1508581

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The 2015 spring meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Geneva on 17-18 February 2015. The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr. W. Smith (Chairman, Canada), Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria), Ms. M. Bruun (Finland), Mr. A.M. Ortega (representing Mr. Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, Mexico), Mr. B. Aydemir (Turkey) and Mr. J. Pullinger (the United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. V. Sokolin, (CIS-STAT), Ms. M. Kotzeva, (representing Mr. W. Radermacher, Eurostat), Mr. L. M. Ducharme (IMF), Ms. M. Durand, (OECD) and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE).

2. The following persons attended at the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau: Mr. Ozel (ILO), Mr. J. Magdeleine (WTO) and Mr. A. Maurer (WTO) for agenda item 2(b); Mr. G.S. Ulrich (Switzerland) and Mr. B. Rothen (Switzerland) for agenda item 2(c); and Mr. J. Capaldo (ILO) for agenda item 2(e).

3. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: Ms. Onur (Turkey), Ms. M.J. Santos (Eurostat), and Mr. A. Kosarev (CIS-STAT). Ms. T. Luige of UNECE served as Secretary of the meeting.

4. The following staff of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended: Mr. C. Boldsen, Mr. A. Vikat, Mr. S. Vale, Ms. T. Dimova, Mr. P. Valente, Ms. A. Peltola, Mr. J. Schachter, and Mr. E. Brand.

II. In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas

1. Process-oriented approach to statistical production

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/2 by Turkey, Add.1 by UNECE

5. The CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of process-oriented approach to statistical production based on a paper by Turkey and a note by UNECE. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The paper by Turkey summarizes well the various practices regarding the organization of statistical production.

(b) Moving to a process-based structure in a statistical office can generate efficiency savings and ensure greater coherence between outputs, as well as a more sustainable approach to information technology management.

(c) The Generic Statistical Business Process Model provides a good framework for a process-based organizational structure.

(d) Bureau members brought examples of efficiency gains with improved organizational structures within their offices, such as setting up a department of project management that provides common tools for development work, and closer coordination of data collection to ensure the use of standard software and methodologies.

(e) The idea of a high-level seminar to share experiences on this topic was supported. The High-Level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services (HLG) would provide an appropriate framework for organizing such an event, though some Bureau members cautioned against over-loading the HLG with too many activities.

Conclusions

6. HLG will organise a high-level seminar on the process-oriented approach to statistical production, in collaboration with Turkey. The Bureau will assess the need for further work in this area after the seminar.

2. Labour mobility and globalisation

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/3 by Austria, Add.1 by UNECE

7. The CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of labour mobility and globalisation based on a paper by Austria and a note by UNECE. ILO and WTO contributed to the discussion and made presentations on the topic. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The paper provides an excellent review of relevant issues giving a good basis for future work. It was suggested that UNECE should establish a Working Paper series to disseminate to a wider audience selected papers prepared under CES and its Bureau that can have an impact on international statistical work.

(b) Labour mobility is a complex and challenging topic cutting across a number of statistical domains. The increasing labour mobility has an impact on productivity measurement and national accounts, as the concepts of national borders and residence have become less relevant due to globalization. The topic is highly policy relevant to inform the discussion on labour supply and labour market policies.

(c) There is a clear need for a comprehensive framework and harmonization of terms and concepts in this area, starting with terms such as 'labour mobility', 'migration' and 'Mode 4' in WTO terminology (cross border movement of workers to provide services).

(d) Measurement of labour mobility requires integration of different data sources. Producing mirror statistics and promoting data exchange would be helpful in assessing the current data gaps, quality problems and development needs. Use of alternative sources, such as mobile phone records may need to be explored to fill data gaps.

(e) Improving statistics on labour mobility requires both national and international coordination. CES can contribute by bringing together the different work strands and improving coordination of work in this cross-cutting area.

(f) Any work to be carried out under CES on this topic should complement the work conducted by organizations such as ILO, WTO and OECD. ILO suggested that some of the members of a possible CES Task Force on labour mobility would participate in the ILO Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics to ensure good coordination.

(g) The composition of any future task force should include statisticians from different disciplines, both social and economic areas. The work should not be too broad and should focus on achieving practical results. A collection of case studies that illustrate good practices in countries would be useful.

Conclusions

8. The Bureau decided to create a Task Force on Labour Mobility and Globalisation with three main objectives:

- Preparing a collection of good practices;
- Establishing a framework with common definitions; and

- Improving data exchange.

9. The Bureau asked Austria, together with the UNECE Secretariat, to draft the terms of reference for the group for the next Bureau meeting. Turkey, Eurostat, OECD and WTO expressed their interest to participate in the Task Force.

10. The topic of labour mobility and globalisation was selected for discussion at the CES plenary session in June 2015 in Geneva. Austria will update the paper based on the Bureau discussion and comments received.

11. The Secretariat will launch a Working Paper series to disseminate to a wider audience selected papers prepared under CES and its Bureau that can have an impact on international statistical work.

3. Follow-up to the in-depth review on population projections

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/4 by UNECE

Conclusions

12. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Population Projections.

4. Follow-up to the in-depth review on measuring extreme events and disasters

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/5 by UNECE in consultation with Mexico, Eurostat, OECD and UNISDR

13. The Bureau discussed the draft Terms of Reference for a Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Mexico, Eurostat, OECD and UNISDR. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Measuring extreme events and disasters is closely linked with geospatial data. The work should be coordinated with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and related initiatives.

(b) The Task Force needs to coordinate its work closely with the work of UNESCAP in this area, and with the CES Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics. A special session on measuring extreme events and disasters is planned to be held during the expert meeting on climate change related statistics on 2-3 September 2015 in Geneva.

(c) The UN Committee on Environmental-economic Accounting (UNCEEA) should be kept informed about the work due to the close relation between SEEA and measuring extreme events and disasters.

(d) Mexico, Turkey, OECD and Eurostat expressed their interest to participate in the Task Force.

Conclusions

14. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters subject to comments made in the discussion. The Secretariat will contact the CES members to explore their interest to participate in the Task Force.

5. Follow-up to the in-depth review on social protection statistics

15. The Bureau discussed possible follow-up to the in-depth review on social protection statistics based on information from ILO, the co-chair of the Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B). The following issues were discussed:

(a) The work of SPIAC-B addresses the harmonization and international comparability issues which the CES Bureau raised during the in-depth review in January 2014. SPIAC-B has also proposed a series of indicators on social protection relating to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

(b) The latest SPIAC-B meeting on 3 February 2015 in New York discussed how to go forward with social protection indicators and data. The main outcome was an initiative to establish a world social protection database that would help to harmonize social protection statistics. The database attempts to address issues such as different definitions and legal provisions, and incoherence between the data sources. The database will provide a system of structured indicators integrating data from social security systems and social assistance.

(c) SPIAC-B uses Eurostat methodologies and definitions and coordinates closely with Eurostat. It is important to follow common classifications for comparability between countries and across different domains of statistics.

(d) OECD maintains a Social Expenditure database covering all OECD countries.

(e) The need for better harmonization of social protection statistics is especially relevant for developing countries. However, it will not be possible to fully harmonize these statistics due to the different institutional settings. Therefore, different indicators may be needed to monitor SDG targets related to social protection at global, regional and national levels.

Conclusions

16. No further activities on social protection will be undertaken under CES for the time being. The topic may be revisited in future, in particular in connection with the SDGs and targets related to social protection.

6. Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2015-2016

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/6 by UNECE

Conclusions

17. The following topics were selected for the in-depth reviews to be carried out in October 2015 and February 2016, including countries responsible for preparing the papers to provide basis for discussion:

(a) Strategic partnerships with stakeholders in the information industry (Canada);

(b) Diversification of population census methodology and sources (Finland and Turkey);

(c) Developing geospatial information services based on official statistics (author to be confirmed).

18. The fourth topic to be reviewed will be decided upon later, taking into account the developments with the SDGs, targets and indicators.

III. UNECE Statistical work and CES Teams of specialists

1. National accounts

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/7 by the Steering Group

19. The Bureau reviewed the updated Terms of Reference for the UNECE Steering Group on National Accounts. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Steering Group has been very useful to coordinate the work on globalization and national accounts, focusing in particular on the region of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

(b) The Steering Group should facilitate coordination of technical assistance activities on implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

(c) The Steering Group could also contribute to the work on the 2008 SNA research agenda towards the next revision of SNA.

(d) Compared to task forces, the coordination role of steering groups requires a longer-term mandate. Regular reporting to the Bureau provides a possibility of evaluating their work during the mandated period.

Conclusions

20. The Bureau approved the updated terms of reference of the Steering Group on National Accounts subject to comments made in the discussion, and extended the mandate of the Group until 2018.

2. Gender statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/8 by the Steering Group

21. The Bureau reviewed the updated terms of reference for the Steering Group on Gender Statistics. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau supported the work of the Steering Group. The Steering Group has an important role in improving the collaboration of international organizations, users and producers of gender statistics, and the quality of gender statistics in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

(b) The Steering Group should aim at bringing together the best expertise in gender statistics. The European Institute for Gender Equality should be invited to join the Steering Group.

(c) The work should be coordinated with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and should take into account the gender related targets and indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusions

22. The Bureau approved the updated terms of reference of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics subject to comments made in the discussion, and extended the mandate of the Group until 2018.

3. Human resources management and training

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/9 by the Steering Group

Conclusions

23. The Bureau reviewed the final report of the Steering Group on Human Resources Management and Training. The Bureau thanked the Steering Group for their successful work, and closed the Group.

24. The work will be continued under the HLG Modernization Committee on Organisational Framework and Evaluation. The Modernization Committee will organise a workshop on human resources management and training in 2016 in Poland.

4. Classification of International Statistical Activities

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/10 by UNECE

Conclusions

25. The Bureau agreed with the proposed procedure for updating the classification underlying the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA). The Secretariat will set up a small group to carry out the revision, consisting of representatives of the Secretariat and the main users of the classification: SDMX, Paris21 and a country (Canada).

5. Modernization of statistical production and services

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/11 by HLG

26. The Bureau reviewed the outcomes of the international collaboration projects overseen by the High-Level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services (HLG) in 2014, and planned activities in 2015. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau congratulated the HLG on the successful outcomes of the 2014 projects on the use of Big Data for official statistics and the implementation of the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA).

(b) A key issue for the future will be to ensure that the outcomes of these projects are widely used in practice.

(c) Ensuring that the CSPA activities are sustainable in the longer term is a priority.

(d) Future Big Data activities should focus on the "sandbox" approach.

(e) There has been very good cooperation between the international organisations on these projects for the benefit of all stakeholders, including national statistical offices.

Conclusions

27. The Bureau commended the HLG on the outcomes achieved in 2014.

6. Success criteria for evaluating the work of the CES task forces and steering groups

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/12 by UNECE

28. The Bureau reviewed the proposal for success criteria to be applied to CES teams of specialists. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) In evaluating the work of the CES task forces and steering groups, the bureaucratic burden on the groups should be kept to the minimum. The groups should focus on substantive work. Any evaluation tasks should be integrated into existing work processes.

(b) When launching new teams of specialists, the Bureau should carefully consider the expected impact of their work. An important criterion is country engagement.

(c) It is important to inform about and promote the products after they have been finalized. Having an impact on global processes and being used as a basis for developing global recommendations is one of the indicators of success.

(d) The Bureau highlighted as a good practice that expert meetings follow up on the implementation of the various CES guidelines developed in recent years. This has proven effective in areas such as population censuses, migration, climate change, globalization, business registers, etc. The expert meetings should focus on sharing experience and identifying difficulties in implementing the CES guidelines to provide feedback for improving the guidelines.

Conclusions

29. The Steering Groups will report to the Bureau on the implementation of CES recommendations and guidelines in their respective areas. The Bureau welcomed the proposal for voluntary self-evaluation of the CES task forces and steering groups.

IV. Transformative agenda for official statistics: data revolution

30. The Bureau discussed the implications of the report A World That Counts: Mobilising a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development for the work of CES. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau expressed concern about the high number of indicators planned for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasized the importance of active involvement of official statisticians in the consultation. NSOs should actively contribute to the discussion as country views are considered a priority.

(b) The Post-2015 Development Agenda provides a good opportunity to mobilise greater support and possibly resources for official statistics. At the same time, policy makers may look for alternative sources to fill data gaps and obtain more timely data. NSOs should be proactive in promoting their central role and professional competence in ensuring data quality.

(c) Modernization of statistical offices is needed to improve the efficiency of statistical production in general, not only in the context of SDGs.

(d) When there are data gaps for indicators to measure SDGs, international organizations should only publish data from non-official sources after consultation with the relevant national statistical organizations.

(e) The OECD mapping of existing indicators to potential goals and targets shows that there are data gaps also for OECD countries.

(f) The growing movement towards "open data" is an important part of the data revolution.

(g) Setting up any new groups for SDG monitoring should be carefully considered not to create extra layers of international bureaucracy. Existing groups and mechanisms should be used wherever possible.

(h) The Bureau supported the idea that CES should be seen as a "centre of excellence" on statistical modernization. As an example, Mexico will circulate a paper on their experience of establishing a centre of excellence with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. A regular annual reporting on HLG activities to the UN Statistical Commission would be desirable to inform a wider audience about the work.

Conclusions

31. Official statisticians, especially in countries need to be proactive in discussions to determine the indicators to monitor the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Bureau supported the regular reporting of HLG activities to the UN Statistical Commission.

V. Preparation for the CES 2015 plenary session

1. Organisation of the CES 2015 seminar on the response of official statistics to Sustainable Development Goals

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/13 by Switzerland, France, Sweden and UNECE

32. The Bureau discussed the organisation of the CES 2015 seminar on the response of official statistics to Sustainable Development Goals based on an outline prepared by the seminar and session organisers. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Official statisticians need to take the leadership role in monitoring the SDGs, this will be especially challenging in areas that are traditionally outside official statistics (e.g. peace and security).

(b) NSOs should use the SDGs as an opportunity to promote their coordination role in bringing national agencies together to provide data, including from outside the statistical system. Sharing NSO experience in cooperating with other institutions would be of interest at the seminar.

(c) It was proposed to prepare, as an outcome of the seminar, a CES declaration on the central role of national statistical offices in monitoring SDGs and their professional responsibility for promoting data quality. The message would be stronger if it could be coordinated with similar declarations in other regions.

(d) The focus of discussion at the seminar will be adjusted to take into account the latest developments with the SDG process that will take place before the seminar.

Conclusions

33. The Secretariat in cooperation with the seminar and session organisers will explore the possibility of preparing a CES declaration on the response of official statisticians to SDGs as an outcome of the seminar, and possibly coordinate this with other regions. Such a

declaration should be prepared well in advance of the meeting and consulted with the CES members.

34. The seminar organisers will proceed with the preparations, taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau. The seminar will take place on Monday, 15 June 2015, from 9:50 to 17:00.

2. Organisation of the CES 2015 seminar on modernization of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/14 by Ireland and Italy

35. The Bureau supported the outline of the seminar prepared by Ireland and Italy.

Conclusions

36. The seminar organizers will proceed with the preparations as planned. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 16 June 2015, from 9:30 to 17:00.

3. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2015 plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/15 by UNECE

Conclusions

37. The Bureau approved the provisional agenda and tentative timetable for the CES 2015 plenary session. Labour mobility and globalisation was selected as an in-depth review topic to be discussed at the plenary session.

4. Measuring Global Production

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/16 and Add1. by the Task Force

38. The Bureau supported the draft Guide to Measuring Global Production prepared by a dedicated Task Force chaired by Ireland. The Bureau noted that the industrial classification of factoryless goods producers and the recording of their transactions in national and international accounts is a priority area for further work after the finalization of the Guide.

Conclusions

39. An example on factoryless goods production by Canada and information on the work of the OECD Expert Group on Extended Supply-Use Tables will be added to the Guide.

40. The Secretariat will circulate the draft Guide to Measuring Global Production for electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement. UNSD will extend the electronic consultation to all countries that are not CES members.

41. The Secretariat will organise the translation of the Guide into Russian using extra-budgetary resources.

5. International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/17 and Add.1 by the Task Force

42. The Bureau supported the draft International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers prepared by a dedicated Task Force chaired by Austria.

Conclusions

43. The Secretariat will circulate the draft Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

44. UNSD will circulate the Guidelines for global consultation and submit them to the next Statistical Commission session after endorsement by CES.

45. The Secretariat will organise the translation of the Guidelines into Russian using extra-budgetary resources.

46. The UNECE/Eurostat/OECD expert meetings on business registers will be used as a forum to follow-up on the implementation of the Guidelines.

5. Recommendations for 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/18 and Add1. by the Steering Group and Task Forces

47. The Bureau supported the draft Recommendations for 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses prepared by a Steering Group chaired by Canada and nine Task Forces on censuses.

Conclusions

48. The Secretariat will circulate the draft CES Recommendations for 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

49. CIS-Stat offered support in translating the Recommendations into Russian.

50. The forthcoming in-depth review on the diversification of population census methodology and sources (agenda item 2f) will build on the work carried out in drafting the CES Recommendations.

6. Socio-economic conditions of migrants

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/19 and 23 by the Task Force

51. The Bureau reviewed the Report on Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants prepared by the Task Force chaired by Canada, and considered the terms of reference for a new Task Force on integration of multiple data sources to improve the measurement of migration. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The report's focus on a longitudinal approach for analysis and use of case-studies from several countries was appreciated. In future work on this topic, more attention

could be paid to identifying data gaps and recommendations how to overcome data limitations for longitudinal analysis.

(b) The report presents the outcome of analytical work and a collection of good practices from countries with numerical examples. Therefore, there is no need for a wide consultation with all CES members and the report can be endorsed by the Bureau.

(c) The proposed Task Force on integration of multiple data sources on migration should lead to a practical outcome that would help countries in producing better migration estimates.

Conclusions

52. The Bureau endorsed the report on Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants prepared by the Task Force. The Secretariat will finalise the report for electronic publication and inform the CES members.

53. The terms of reference for the Task Force on Integration of Multiple Data Sources on Migration will be revised to emphasize the practical improvements that this work can bring to the quality of migration statistics, and resubmitted to the next Bureau meeting.

VI. Follow-up to the CES 2014 plenary session

1. Follow-up to the CES seminar on "What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/20 by the United Kingdom, Austria, Canada, Mexico, OECD and UNECE

54. The Bureau reviewed the proposal for a way forward on estimating and communicating the value of official statistics. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The value of official statistics is closely linked to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. A strong claim on the value of official statistics would be based on these Principles which emphasize the key role of official statistics in democratic societies.

(b) It would be useful to collect examples of how official statistics are used in decision making. Users may be accustomed to having high quality statistics at hand and cannot imagine the situation when data on employment, GDP, poverty, etc. would not be available.

(c) The communication of the value of official statistics should be done from the viewpoint of data users. Furthermore, "good quality" should be better explained to users as they may not understand well what it entails.

(c) The value of statistics may be perceived differently in different countries. Understanding the cultural context may help to better communicate the trade-off between quality and timeliness, for example in case of data revisions.

(e) Official statisticians could create value jointly with the private sector, such as by providing new information services. Official statisticians may also support private data producers to improve their methods and data quality, for example in the context of measuring SDGs.

(f) The proposed work strand 3 which focuses on the impact of official statistics, defining the value of official statistics and how to measure and demonstrate that value is the priority. This work strand will feed into the work on communication and marketing.

(g) Work strand 1 on marketing should focus on the exchange of experience through real-life cases, both successes and failures. In addition to discussing these issues among experts, it will be important to make the top management of NSOs aware of the lessons learned.

(h) Work strand 2 on cost estimates for statistical processes should not be too ambitious. These estimates are helpful in discussions with the government and policy makers. Possibility to roughly compare how much a certain statistical programme costs in different countries would be useful.

Conclusions

55. The Bureau strongly supported the proposal for further work, including the following work strands:

(a) Value and impact of official statistics (work strand 3), to be led by a new Task Force. This area requires intensive effort to establish a framework and indicators for measuring the value and impact of official statistics. The Task Force should also coordinate all CES activities related to the value of official statistics.

(b) Improving the marketing of the value of official statistics (work strand 1) to be led by the HLG Modernization Committee on Products and Sources in line with their current work plans. The Work Sessions on Communication of Statistics provide a platform for exchanging experience in this area.

(c) Valuing the costs of producing official statistics (work strand 2) to be led by the HLG Modernization Committee on Standards, especially to share current experience and practices in using CES standards as a basis for cost estimation.

56. The Bureau decided to establish a Task Force on Value of Official Statistics and asked the United Kingdom, together with Austria, Canada, Mexico, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE, to prepare the terms of reference for the Task Force. Eurostat expressed their willingness to participate in the Task Force.

VII. UNECE programme of work documents

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/21 and 22 by UNECE

Conclusions

57. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the UNECE report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2014 and the Programme of Work for 2016-2017 (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/FEB/21 and 22).

VIII. Dates and venue of next meetings

58. The CES Bureau confirmed the dates for its forthcoming meetings as follows:

- The next meeting will take place on 20-21 October 2015 in Geneva;
- The subsequent meetings are planned to take place during the week of 8 February 2016 and on 18-19 October 2016, venue to be decided.

59. The 63rd CES plenary session will take place on 15-17 June 2015 in Geneva, followed by the meeting of the OECD Statistics Committee.

60. The 64th CES plenary session is tentatively scheduled to be held on 27-29 April 2016 in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD Statistics Committee meeting.

IX. Other business

61. The Bureau decided which papers of the CES Bureau meeting will be made available on the web (www.unece.org/index.php?id=35523#/).